Acknowledged on 2/19/2020

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
The Authority for Transportation in Northern Virginia

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 30th, 2018, 7:00pm
NVTA Offices
3040 Williams Drive, Suite 200
Fairfax, Virginia-22031

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order/Welcome — Chairman Boice

- Chair Boice called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.
- Attendees:
  - ✓ Members: Randy Boice; Pat Turner; Armand Ciccarelli; Meredith Judy; Dr. Shanjiang Zhu.
  - ✓ NVTA Staff: Monica Backmon (Executive Director); Keith Jasper (Principal, Transportation Planning and Programming); Harun Rashid (Transportation Planner).
  - ✓ Other: Noelle Dominguez (Fairfax County)

Action

II. Approve Summary Notes of September 20, 2017, February 21, 2018, and April 18, 2018 Meetings

- Mr. Boice moved approval of the September/February/April meeting summaries; seconded by Ms. Turner. The motion carried unanimously with abstentions from those who were not present at the September/February/April meetings.

Discussion/Information

III. Draft FY2018-2023 Six Year Program — Mr. Jasper

- Mr. Jasper commenced his presentation with a brief overview of the project selection process, and then provided details on - public information events, public hearing at NVTA, and a tally of comments received by projects. He highlighted that 85% of comments were directed towards 15% of the projects, and that most are in support of projects. There were also some general process-related comments, and comments that are unrelated to the Six Year Program (SYP) process. In the next set of slides, he discussed the changes in project applications during the comment period – reduced fund

requests, other funding source confirmed, project milestone reached. It was noted that none of these changes had substantial impacts in the project recommendation process. A summary of all these candidate projects, with an updated total for fund requests, and their distribution by sponsoring jurisdictions/agencies and primary modes were then presented. He highlighted that this set of 60 candidate projects is a subset of all 352 projects identified in the regional long-range plan, known as TransAction, put forward by member jurisdictions and agencies for funding based on their priorities.

- Candidate projects are first ranked by Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC) ratios. Mr. Jasper stated that the cumulative fund requests for the top 30 projects from this ranked list will be close to the estimated Pay-Go revenues in the next six years. This was the starting point in the staff recommendation process, which was explained with two distinct steps:
  - Step 1: based on CRRC ratios
  - Step 2: based on qualitative considerations

  In step 1, with CRRC ratios as starting point, projects were eliminated and added in the list of top 30 for funding based on updates in projects' updated needs by phases. 27 projects were identified for funding in this process. In step 2, based on qualitative factors, mostly project phasing and past performance, another 15 projects were added to the list. Mr. Jasper identified these projects on a color-coded list (full funding, partial funding, not recommended). So, a total of 42 projects were recommended for funding in this cycle of SYP, with a total amount of $1.285 billion, to match the estimated amount of Pay-Go revenue.
- In the next set of slides, Mr. Jasper summarized these recommended projects by jurisdictions/agency, primary modal components, and geographic corridors. He mentioned that these projects have substantial overlaps between rankings from CRRC and TransAction performance ratings, and they achieved most of the regional planning objectives as identified by highway corridors in the TransAction planning process. A map is included in the presentation to display this geographic distribution of candidate projects, with matching colors of funding recommendations. As a part of staff recommendation, SmartScale funding from the State is mentioned as a funding source for projects not recommended in this cycle of SYP. Mr. Jasper then discussed next steps in this program cycle, to submit executed Standard Project Agreement (SPA) in a fairly tight timeframe, and also reminded the group of a forthcoming policy that de-allocates approved regional revenue. This discussion was followed by some dates for the next funding cycle, with a primary goal to synchronize with the State's funding program. If the current SYP is approved as proposed, according to this schedule, the statutory review committees will be meeting again in early 2020.
- Mr. Jasper then asked the committee members whether they are in agreement with the staff recommendation process (steps 1 and 2). If they are not, and seek to propose alternatives, Mr. Jasper presented a set of

recommended factors. He highlighted the fact that staff recommendation has the full allocation of estimated Pay-Go revenue, so any re-allocation would require a change on other projects.

- To start the discussion session, Chair Boice asked whether reduced funding proposal for some highly-ranked projects were to spread the funds more to bottom-ranked projects. In response Ms. Backmon stated that these allocations were derived by a project's specific needs by phases. Mr. Ciccarelli asked to clarify the recommendation process in step 2, whether they were selected completely out of qualitative factors. Mr. Jasper stated that both quantitative and qualitative factors were utilized throughout the process. This was evident between the 1st and 2nd page of the project list, where there is a strong influence of CRRC rankings, but this was not a straight-line approach. Ms. Backmon and Mr. Jasper then jointly identified the qualitative factors for project recommendation by specific projects in the list, for example – long term benefits of a project; project readiness (Arlington bus project); project past performance (Leesburg interchange projects); external funding leverage; modal/geographic balance (Crystal City Metrorail project). In response to a question from Ms. Turner, Mr. Jasper explained that project readiness was a positive qualitative factor to recommend funding for the Hillsboro traffic calming project (CRRC rank #33). Mr. Ciccarelli asked whether there will be documentation of this staff recommendation process, to which Ms. Backmon confirmed, and Mr. Jasper added that the document will not be released until an adoption by the Authority members. Dr. Zhu asked whether past performance of a project played any role in the qualitative considerations. Ms. Backmon confirmed, and added that projects' fund draw-down trends are a major concern of the Authority, and the driving factor to draft a de-allocation policy.
- Following this discussion, Chair Boice asked the committee member if they are willing to approve the staff recommendation process, and the corresponding project list, or to modify the process fund allocation. Ms. Turner acknowledged staff effort for the process and motioned to approve. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ciccarelli, and unanimously approved to be sent to Authority members. Ms. Backmon reminded the group of the upcoming Planning and Programming Committee meeting, to be held on June 6 at 10 a.m., and the subsequent Authority meeting on June 14, at 7 p.m.

IV. NVTA Update Ms. Backmon, Executive Director

- Ms. Backmon expressed her gratitude for the effort by NVTA staff and the committee members, for the long and arduous process to arrive at this juncture to adopt the first Six Year Program. In response to Mr. Boice's question regarding the need for new TAC member appointments, Ms. Backmon mentioned that she is working with some potential member suggestions.

Adjournment

V. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.